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TECHNICAL NOTES
MANUAL APPARATUS FOR SEPARATION OF
SOLUBILIZED COLLAGEN FROM DRIED SKIN AND HIDE

TERESA M. BELISARIO AND ANNE S. JAHN

*Eastern Regional Research Laboratory
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118*

In this laboratory solubilized collagen is often prepared by immersing diced skin in buffer for several days (1). The resulting solution is decanted from the hide, but the solubilized preparation richest in collagen adheres to the skin and is discarded with it. This is especially so when the collagen concentration is relatively high and the preparation is very viscous.

We have devised a simple hand press for manual extraction of solution clinging to pieces of skin (Figure 1). Two thick glass rods (10 mm. or more in diameter) are inserted in a versatile-type clamp attached to a ring stand. The rods are sloped downward so the collagen preparation will flow along them and drip into the beaker below. The clamp grip is not tight and the rods may easily

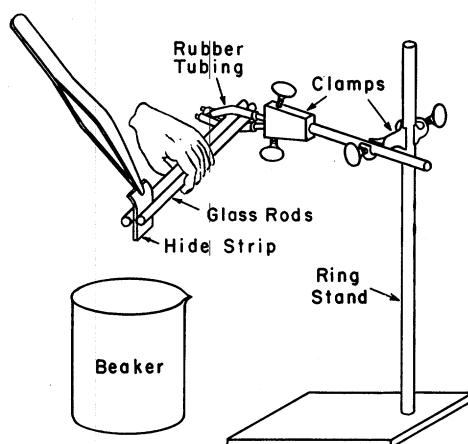


FIGURE 1.—Manual Apparatus for Separation of Solubilized Collagen Preparation.

be opened or closed by the operator's left hand, leaving the right hand free to insert pieces of hide between the rods and draw them through with an upward motion. Separation of solubilized collagen from the skin is rapid and the solution adhering to the drained pieces of skin is kept at a minimum.